

Remarks

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1 at lines 10-11 and 13 the Examiner asserts that "electrical continuity" is unclear. Accordingly the language has been amended to recite that the components are electrically connected. In claim 1 lines 17-20 the Examiner asserts that the structural relationship between the first contact parts and the first shielding shell. Accordingly this language has been amended to indicate that the first and second contact parts are arranged in an array perpendicular to the mating direction. Applicants have not fully understood the Examiner's comments regarding clarity issues in claim 1 at lines 21-28, however, the language has been amended in an attempt to clarify the claim and address this rejection. Paragraph breaks have been added and language referring to the spacing of the first and second contact parts is believed to address these issues and clarify the claim. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant if further clarification is required.

With regard to claim 5, the Examiner asserts that "the second engaging part of the female connector" lacks antecedent basis. Accordingly, claim 5 has been amended at line 2 to recite the second connector which has antecedent basis in claim 1.

With regard to claim 6 amendments are presented to address each of the antecedent basis issues and clarity issue raised by the Examiner. The locking part has been deleted and reference is made only to the latching arm thus eliminating the need to recite a structural relationship between these elements.

With regard to claim 8, "the forward facing surface" has been amended to read "a forward facing surface", thus addressing the antecedent basis rejection.

With regard to claim 9, a similar amendment has been made to address the antecedent basis rejection.

With regard to claim 10, the Examiner has raised antecedent basis issues with the language "the end portion of the shielding shell". This language has been similarly amended to replace "the" with "a" thus addressing the antecedent basis issues. The claim has also been amended at line 5 to clarify that the finger-catch is engageable to push the rearward-facing surface.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lin. The Examiner asserts that Lin, In Figures 2-5 shows a complete response to each and every element set forth in these claims. Although Lin discloses a connector that has locking features, and spring arms engaging holes of a mating connector, Lin does not teach nor suggest first and second contact parts disposed in an array at equal spacing relative to each other as required by amended claim 1. Claim 1 as amended therefore is patentably distinct from Lin. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

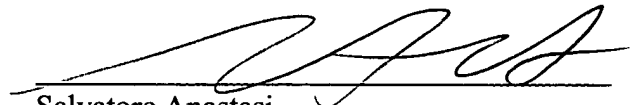
Claims 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Hirai. He Examiner asserts that Lin shows the claimed invention except for the first engagement part of the latch arm being a hole and a second engagement part of the second connector being an anchoring projection and then relies on Hirai for a teaching of these elements. Considering that Lin does not teach nor suggest first and second contact parts disposed in an array at equal spacing relative to each other as required by amended claim 1, and nor does Hirai, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 and 5 is respectfully requested.

With regard to claim 6, applicants contend that the Examiner has not made a prima facie case of obviousness to reject these claims. Applicants fail to find a suggestion in these

references to combine the sliding latch arm of Hirai with the latching mechanism of Lin. Neither of these references teaches or suggests that the conductive latching arm is fastened to an end portion of the shell while its rear end can slide on the surface of the shielding shell. Hirai shows the latch arm 10 (Fig 3b) as being integral with the shell. Applicants fail to see the sliding of the arm on a surface of the shell and request reconsideration or clarification of this rejection.

Considering the amendments and remarks presented here, reconsideration of this application and passage to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'SA', is written over a horizontal line.

Salvatore Anastasi
Registration No. 39090
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Phone: 610-722-3899
Facsimile: 610-889-3696

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

1. An electrical connector assembly comprising:

a first connector having a first insulating housing with [?]first contacts, and a first shielding shell that is externally mounted on first insulating housing,

a second connector mated to the first connector, the second connector having a second insulating housing with second contacts, and a second shielding shell that is mounted on the second insulating housing,

the first connector has a [?]latching arm with a first engaging part, the first engaging part ^{is} [has] electrically connected to [continuity with] the first shielding shell,

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the second connector has a [?]second engaging part which is [has] electrically connected to [continuity with] the second shielding shell, the second engaging part engages with the first engaging part of the latching arm to provide a locking and electrical engagement therebetween, and

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the first and second shielding shells respectively have a plurality of first and second contact parts which are disposed in [the direction] an array arranged perpendicular to the mating direction of the first and second connectors, the first and second connectors are mated ;

[with] the first engaging part of the first connector and the second engaging part of the second connector [form a portion] being one of the first and second contact parts,

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whereby the plurality of the first and second contact parts [as a whole] are each disposed at equal [intervals in] spacing relative to each other along the direction perpendicular to the direction of mating of the first and second connectors.

5. The electrical connector assembly as recited in Claim 4, wherein the second engaging part of the second [female] connector is an anchoring projection which is caused to protrude from the second shielding shell, the anchoring projection engages the engaging hole.

6. An electrical connector comprising:
an insulating housing that holds contacts, a shielding shell that is externally mounted on the insulating housing, and a [locking part] conductive latching arm that is disposed on the outside of the shielding shell for engagement with a mating connector,

the [locking part has a metal] latching arm having a [whose] front end [is] fastened to an end portion of the shielding shell, and whose rear end is held so that the rear end can slide on a surface of the shielding shell, the latching arm has an engaging part which is located near the front end [part] of the latching arm, the engaging part cooperates with a mating engaging part of the mating connector, the latching arm has a pressing part which is located on the rear part of the latching arm.

8. The electrical connector as recited in Claim 7, wherein the engaging part of the latching arm which has an engaging hole that is formed in a [the] forward-facing surface of the latching arm.

9. The electrical connector as recited in Claim 8, wherein the pressing part is [the] located on a rearward-facing surface of the latching arm, the pressing part is inclined toward the rear of the latching arm.

10. The electrical connector as recited in Claim 9, wherein a covering enclosure is formed on the outside of the shielding shell with an [the] end portion of the shielding shell being exposed, the covering enclosure has finger-catch part on the rearward-facing surface that [makes it possible] is engageable to push the rearward-facing surface.